

2020 Washington State Democratic Convention June 13, 2020

Rules

Considering the state of emergency that currently exists across Washington, the delegates to this Convention are not all able to gather physically. Pursuant to sections III.D and XII.C of the Bylaws of the Washington State Democratic Party, the Executive Committee of the Party, upon recommendation of the Rules and Bylaws Committee of the Washington State Democratic Central Committee, has adopted these rules for the conduct of the first virtual convention in Washington State history. These rules shall be in effect until such time as the Convention adopts permanent rules for the conduct of its business.

1. **Appointment of Convention Officials**

Pursuant to Section III.J of Washington's Delegate Selection and Affirmative Action Plan (DSAAP), the Permanent Chair of the Convention, elected pursuant to Rule 8. shall appoint the Secretaries, Parliamentarian, Sergeants-at-Arms, Timekeeper, and as many members of the Tally Committee as necessary.

2. **Qualification of Delegates and Alternates**

Pursuant to Section III.F.4 of the DSAAP (as amended), the precinct committee officers of the Washington State Democratic Party elected delegates to this Convention. In addition to these elected delegates, and pursuant to Section III.J.2 of the DSAAP, the following are automatic delegates to the State Convention: all state committee members, all DNC members residing in Washington State, county chairs, county first vice chairs or the highest ranking officer of a different gender, legislative district chairs, legislative district first vice chairs or the highest ranking officer of a different gender, Democratic Members of Congress from Washington State, Democratic Statewide Elected Officials, and Democratic State Senators and Representatives.

3. **Certification of Delegates and Alternates**

All automatic delegates and all delegates who have been declared elected by the State Director of Party Affairs and the audit committee of their legislative district are certified as delegates to and shall be issued voting credentials for the virtual convention.

4. **Alternates**

In the event that an elected delegate fails to request a credential per the schedule in Rule 7c, an alternate shall be given a voting credential. The elected delegate's credential shall be revoked and a new voting credential issued to the eligible alternate. Alternates shall be listed and replace delegates in the order in which they were elected and shall serve only for their respective legislative districts and according to their Presidential preference. Priority shall be given to:

- a. An alternate of the same gender identification and from the same legislative district
- b. An alternate of a different gender identification, from the same legislative district

5. Challenges

Delegates and alternates certified pursuant to rule 3 may only be removed in accordance with the “Rules Governing Challenges,” adopted as Appendix B to the DSAAP, which is incorporated by reference in these Rules. Challenges must have been filed with the Chair of the State Democratic Party no later than 5:00 PM on May 21, 2020. Challenges shall be considered by the State Convention Credentials Committee or the Credentials Review Committee, as appropriate, and the rulings and decisions of the State Convention Credentials Committee or Credentials Review Committee shall be final and not eligible for further appeal.

- a. No person shall be permitted to vote on their own credentials challenge.

6. Convention Committees

- a. There are three convention committees, Credentials, Rules and Platform. The Convention Committees shall meet prior to the opening of the Convention to draft recommendations falling within their domain for consideration by delegates prior to the convention. A further review by the committees may result in amendments to the draft recommendations. The reports and any potential minority reports recommended out of committee shall be the basis for discussion at the convention. No amendments submitted after May 31 will be entertained during the convention.
- b. In the consideration of recommendations or amendments, no committee member may cast more than one vote. The Co- Chairs of each committee shall vote only to break a tie. If after the Co- Chairs vote the result remains a tie, the measure shall fail.
- c. Each Convention Committee will prepare a Majority Report, which shall be its recommendation to the Convention for action on subjects falling within the committee’s domain. To amend the Majority report after passage will require a majority of all members of the committee. In addition, each Committee, by a vote of 35% of the membership of the Committee, may authorize the presentation of Minority Reports, which may be in the form of proposed amendments to the Majority Report, to the Convention for consideration. Committee members voting to authorize presentation of a Minority Report shall be responsible for drafting the report and organizing the presentation in support of the report but may request the assistance of delegates not on the Committee as needed.
- d. The Majority Report of each Convention Committee shall be provided to the delegates by May 27, 2020. Delegates will be advised that any proposed amendments to the Majority Report will need to be received by the State Chair and the Co-Chairs of the relevant Committee by 5:00 pm, Sunday, May 31,

2020 _____ to be considered. Each Convention Committee will meet at least once after the May 31 deadline to consider whether the Majority Report should be amended as proposed, whether (if the Majority Report is not amended) there is sufficient support for submitting the proposed amendment to the Convention as a Minority Report or whether the proposed amendment dies for lack of support within the committee. The final recommendations shall be provided to the delegates prior to the convention **on Monday June 8th**.

- e. At the appropriate time during the convention, the Convention Chair shall recognize the Co-Chairs of a committee to present the committee's Majority Report and the authors of any Minority Reports to present the Minority Reports. The Co-Chairs or authors may yield part of their time to others for the purpose of assisting in the presentation of the majority report and any minority reports. The Co-Chairs of a Committee may designate one or more delegates to respond to any Minority Report presentation. The Convention Rules Committee shall recommend to the Permanent Chair allotments of time for the presentation of Majority and Minority Reports, which need not be the same for all Reports and which shall take into consideration the complexity of any issue presented and the need for reasonable exchange of views by opposing groups before voting on a Report.
- f. Except as proposed by a Convention Committee in the form of a Minority Report, amendments to Committee Reports (either Majority or Minority Reports) shall not be considered by the Convention and will be out of order.

7. Report of Credentials Committee

- a. The report of the Credentials Committee shall be acted upon before the consideration of any other business except the election of the Permanent Chair (**see Rule 8**). This report shall include the total number of delegates eligible to participate in the virtual convention and the total number of delegates actually registering for and issued credentials to the convention.
- b. The Majority Report of the Credentials Committee shall include a summary of the demographics of the delegates elected by the Legislative Districts to the Convention and a comparison of the demographics to the goals set for the Convention by the Affirmative Action Plan in the DSAAP
- c. Delegates and alternates must register with the Credentials Committee between 6:00pm on June 11th and 6:00pm on June 12th. Credentials will be distributed to all seated delegates beginning at 8:00pm on June 12th. Between 6:00pm and 8:00pm from good cause shown the Credentials Committee may issue a credential for filings that missed the deadline by no more than 30 minutes.
- d. Alternates will be informed prior to the Call to Order of the Convention if they have been seated. No additional alternates will be seated after the Convention comes to order.

8. Election of Permanent Chair

- a. The Permanent Chair shall be elected by virtual vote of the certified delegates to the Convention on June 1, 2020 under supervision of the Credentials Review Committee (defined in Appendix B, section 3, of the DSAAP).
 - b. Virtual ballots for the election of Permanent Chair will be issued no later than 9 am on June 1, 2020 to all delegates certified pursuant to Rule 3 above, whether or not they have registered for the convention by that date. In order to be counted, a virtual ballot must have been completed and electronically submitted to the Director of Party Affairs no later than 9 pm June 1, 2020.
 - c. Any delegate who used the accessibility procedures under the CD election process will be contacted to arrange accessible voting arrangements for the Permanent Chairs election.
 - d. The State Party Chair is automatically nominated to be the Permanent Chair if interested in serving. Other candidates for Permanent Chair of the Convention shall be nominated and seconded by at least 10 delegates to the Convention and the name of the nominated candidate and seconding delegates must be filed with the State Party Secretary, with a copy to the Party Affairs Director, by not later than Tuesday, May 26th at 5:00pm.
 - e. A majority vote of the delegates casting ballots within the required time frame shall be required to elect. If a majority is not achieved on the first vote, then the nomination list shall be reduced to the two receiving the highest totals and a succeeding vote shall be taken commencing at 9 am June 2, 2020 and ending at 9 pm June 2, 2020. In all voting for Permanent Chair ties shall be broken by lot. If there are no other nominees, the State Party Chair shall be elected by acclamation as the Permanent Chair with no vote required.
 - f. The Permanent Chair shall take the gavel on June 13, 2020 at the conclusion of the Report of the State Chair on pre-Convention Actions and shall preside until adjournment. It shall be the responsibility of the Chair to conduct and expedite the business of the Convention. The Chair is authorized to appoint a person to temporarily perform the duties of the Chair in the absence of the Chair and to take such lawful action as may be necessary to preserve order throughout the virtual proceedings.
9. **Quorum.** The existence of a quorum shall be determined based on the number of delegates registered to attend with the Credentials Committee as of the close of registration. Once a quorum has been established and voting credentials issued to the registered delegates the presence of a quorum may not be challenged.